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Introduction to the

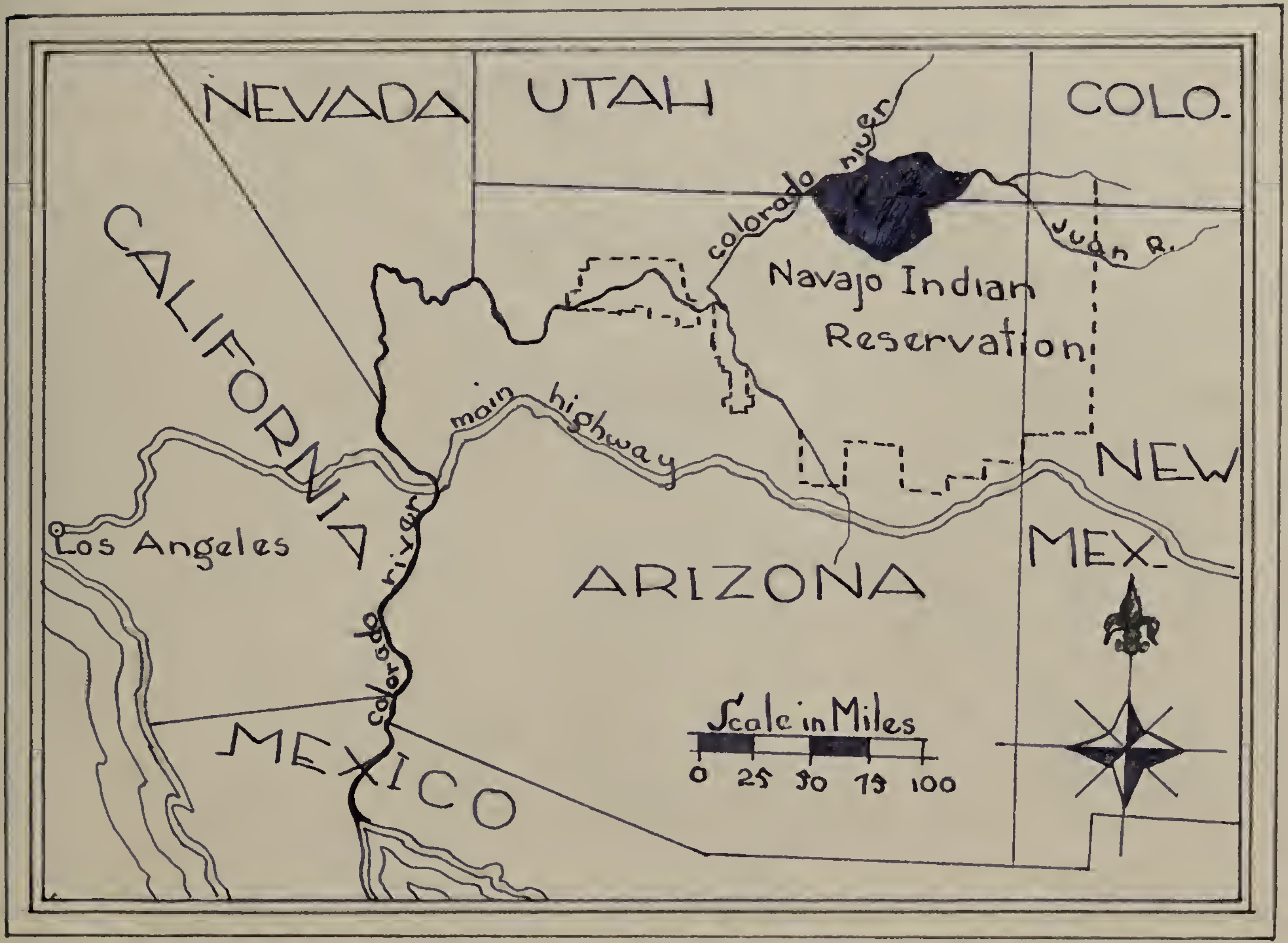
Report on Archaeological Research in

Tsegi Caynons in 1937 and 38

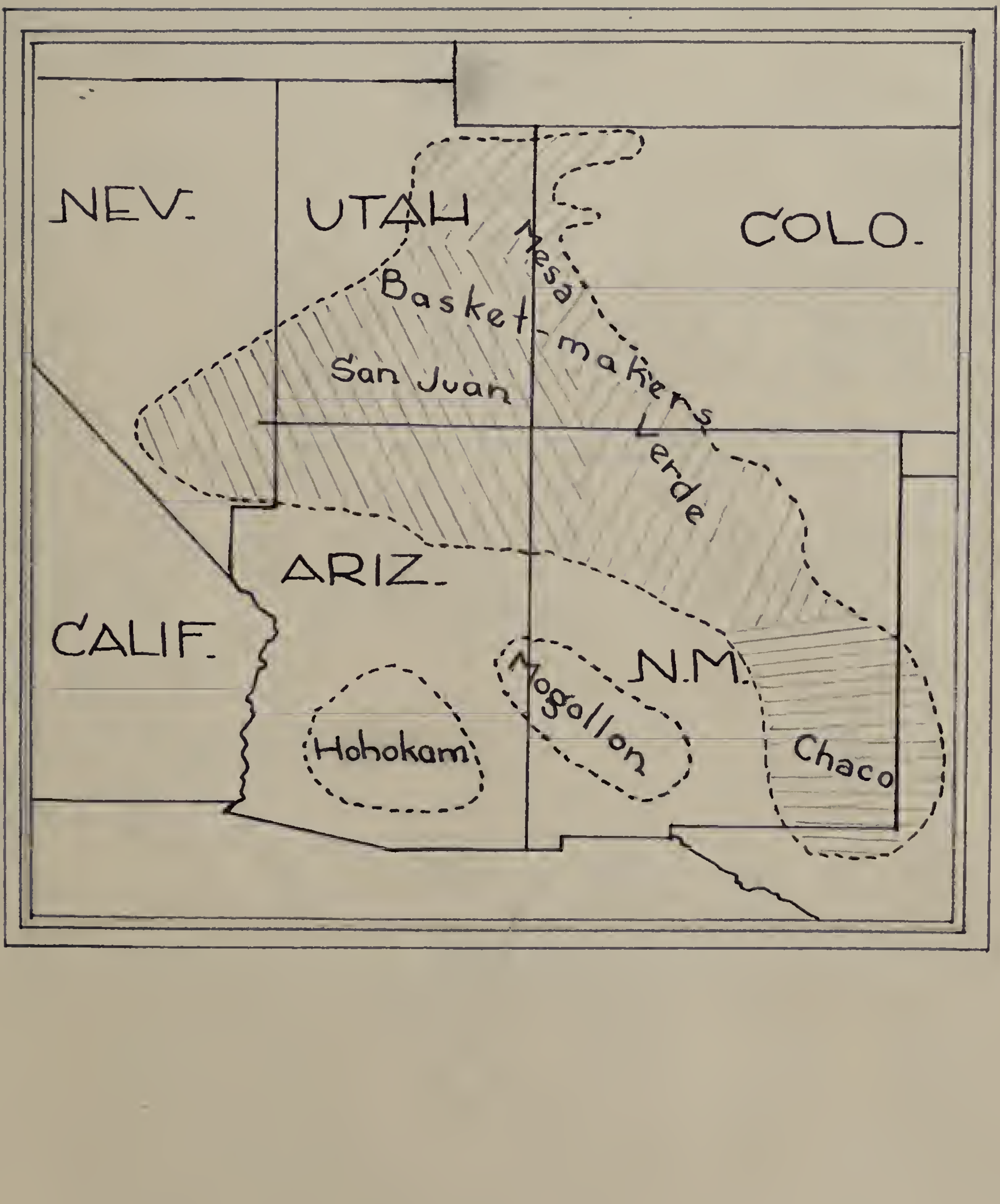
Before undertaking to describe the season's work of '37 and'38 it is necessary for me to give a brief history of the prehistoric people and archaeological work done in this region. Of course, I do not expect to cover the subject in these few pages , but merely to touch upon some of the major points. First, I will [redacted] describe geographically the country, mention the history and important men who first carried on research in this territory, then aquaint you with some of the conclusions they reached concerning these anciant peoples, namely the Basket-makers and early Pueblos.

The Southwest includes parts of the states of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona. All geographically are distinctly different, but have, in common, dryness, high elevation, deep caynons and few rivers. However, we are immeadiately concerned with part of Northeastern Arizona, that is the Tsegi drainage of the San Juan Basin.

Most of this area is between 5000 and 8000 ft. in elevation, being broken up by such heights as Navajo Mt., Chuska and Carrizo Ranges standing above the many mesas which surround



Shaded portion indicates area where mapping and scientific field studies are being carried on by the Rainbow Bridge-Monument Valley Expedition.


NEV.
UTAH
COLO.
Mesa
Basket-makers
San Juan
Verde
ARIZ.
CALIF.
N.M.
Mogollon
Hohokam
Chaco

Before undertaking to describe the season's work of 37 and 38 It is necessary for me to give a brief history of the prehistoric people and archaeological work done in this region. Of course, I do not expect to cover the subject in these few pages but to merely touch upon some of the major points. First I will [illegible] the history and important men who first worked this region then acquaint you with some of the conclusions they reached concerning these ancient peoples, namely the Basket Makers and early Pueblos.

The Southwest includes parts of the states of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona. All geographically are distinctly different, but have in common, dryness, high elevation, deep canyons and few rivers. However, we are undoubtedly concerned with [illegible] Northeastern Arizona, that is the Segi Drainage of the San Juan Basin.

Most of this area is between 5000 and 8000 ft in elevation, being broken up by such heights as Navajo Mountain, the Chuska and Carrizo Ranges standing above the many mesas which surround them. [illegible]

These mesas rise one or two thousand feet above the desert washes and are [illegible]

In the Tsegi region we are bounded on the southeast by Black Mesa, a huge impending mass covering 2500 sq. miles on top of which little or no exploration has been undertaken. To the North ~~rises~~ Skeleton Mesa, deeply cut by Tsegi or Laguna Wash and its many branches, to our east is Monument Valley, and to the West, the Painted Desert.

The locality offers little encouragement to human occupation and probably was equally inhospitable in the past. In summer the days are hot, the nights cold; in winter much snow falls and the canyons are bitterly cold. Always there is a strong wind not only adding to its disagreeable climate, but, also, eroding away its cliffs, shifting sand dunes and ruining its vegetation. Scarcity of water is another problem. Though Laguna Wash runs constantly and there are springs in a few canyons, the water is scarce; the washes muddy and unsuitable for irrigation. In the fall rains are frequent, but are of little aid. They are torrential storms, causing dry wash beds and canyon depths to become raging torrents in a few hours, but in equal time, due to the great runoff of the region, these beds are dry and water has done more damage than good.

Due to the great erosion, lack of water, large areas of exposed rock and sandy soil, the life of the country is limited. Pinyon pines which furnish a seasonal supply of nuts

grow on the mesa tops and along the talus slopes. Various other trees as the juniper, Douglas fir, cottonwood, scrub oak and grease wood grow in a few secluded spots and are very rare. Prickly pear, cactus, yucca plants and Russian thistles cover the barren valleys. The thistles are more abundant than the grass. Crops may only be raised in few places though at one time their extent must have been very great in order to have supported the population of the early inhabitants. Birds and mammals are only moderately common and few might be used for food at present. However, in the past there is no doubt that such animals as mountain sheep, deer, antelope, [illegible] and [illegible] domesticated turkey [illegible] over canyons & mesas.

This [illegible] completes my description [illegible] of the region [illegible] of the country. [illegible]

Now I shall endeavor to [illegible] mention a few of the men who first discovered and explored the Tsegi area.

The first evidence of [illegible] exploration into this region [illegible] is that found in Inscription House, a pueblo ruin in the Navajo National Monument. Inscribed upon one of its walls is what is thought to be the name Carlos Arnais and the date 1661. No doubt early Spanish explorers and trappers found their way into these canyons but their names and records of their travels have been obliterated by time. The next name is that of Lt. [illegible] who inscribed his name on Long House in North Fork and [illegible] white man [illegible] the [illegible] before 1850.

The next personage is one who is famous in the annal of western history; — Kit Carson. He had penetrated this far west in order to establish Fort Defiance and also, to gather up the wandering Navajos by 1852. Arriving on the scene in the 90's are the Wetherills and Charles Mason. All credit of early discovery and exploration goes to them we must thank them for. Lead by John Wetherill Dr. Byron Cummings became the first archaeologist to work in this region; this was about the year 1907. From that time the work increased notable to the present day. During that period such as famous men as: — Dr. William B. Douglas 1909; Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, 1911; Kidder and Guernsey 1919 to 1931 and Lyndon Hargrave 31-32, Dr. Beals, George Brainerd & Watson Smith Rainbow Bridge Monument Valley 31-38, — worked and increased our knowledge of this territory. The work they have done could not even be mentioned by me in this report so I will omit all of it rather than to attempt to give the many details.

No doubt this gives rise to the questions: what did they find concerning these people? What do they know about them, etc. In the next few pages I shall attempt to answer these questions, outline what is known of the cultures of this region and how these people lived.

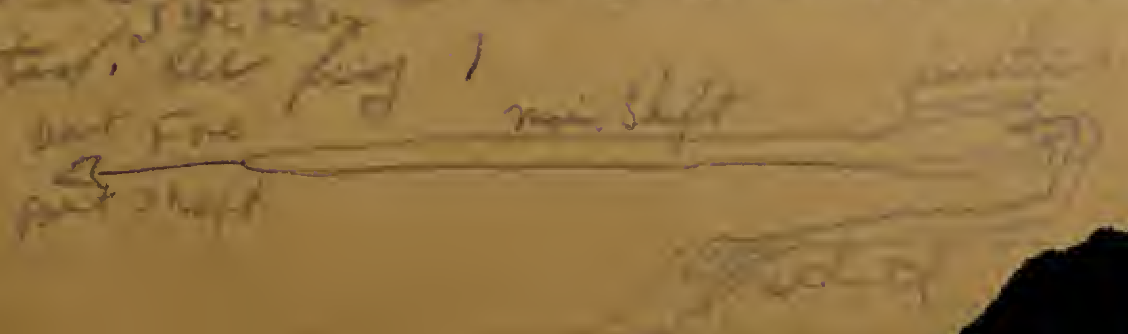
First I will present a time chart which shows the cultural divisions, as made by

prominent archaeologist. Then I will

Roberts	Other Designation	Dates
Basket Maker	Basket Maker II	100 AD
	Classic Basket Maker	to 500 AD
Modified Basket Maker	Basket Maker III	500 to 700
Developmental Pueblo	Pueblo I	700 to 900
[illegible] Pueblo	Pueblo II	900 to [illegible]
"	Pueblo III	1050 to 1200

explain the significance of this [illegible]. As you will notice first on the above list are the Basket Makers or Basket Maker II culture. These were the first people to make permanent homes in the [illegible] region. The reason they had given up their probable former nomadic existence was that now they were agriculturists, having [illegible] plant corn, [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible], "cigar-shaped" pipes, [illegible]. Their homes were either crude pit houses or dry caves. In stature they were people of normal height and [illegible] or long skulled heads. Their clothing [illegible] the [illegible]. In the summer [illegible]

wore "gee strings" or loin cloths while the women wore string aprons or short gowns. In winter they wrapped themselves in fur blankets of rabbit fur and other animal skins. For head dress they wore a simple woven headband, [margin: a head band] and sometimes a feather of headgear. Perhaps the most complicated part of their clothing were their sandals. These were flat, rectangular in shape, [margin: made of yucca] coarsely woven and were fringed at the ends. Often times they were elaborately painted and held to the foot by string looping thru the toes ~~and~~ and extending around the base of the heel. They also ~~wove~~ had cotton cloth, but it is doubtful whether they used it for clothing. ~~and~~ Their weapons were simple. The bow and arrow not yet ~~[illegible]~~ introduced, they used an instrument called the atlatl. ~~[illegible]~~ This weapon is a spear with a short point, feathered at one end, propelled by a short stick which was fitted to the handle ~~[illegible]~~ into which the dart fitted. See fig 1



Of course, most important of all their household utensils were the baskets from which they derive their name. Beautiful baskets of all shapes and sizes are characteristic of the period. The outstanding form was that of a Mexican sombrero turned upside down. ~~and~~ Some of these measured 10 inches in diameter. The inside was often smeared with pitch ~~and~~ or painted in black and red. The type of basketry was either the coil and bundle type or woven type.

The next period marks a great step of ~~[illegible]~~ toward civilization. The same people either acquired or invented the use of pottery. This period is called Basket Maker III or Modified Basket Maker. Characteristic of this period is gray pottery, unslipped, ~~with~~ often with the coils only partially concealed, ~~[illegible]~~ other times with crude black ladder or triangle designs and sometimes covered with a vegetable red paint, called "fugitive red" [illegible] feel it [illegible] a course rubbed off [illegible] one of the [illegible]

living in ~~one~~ pit houses, they still
were agriculturists. Their clothing
~~[illegible]~~ the same except for their
sandals. These may be recognized
by their scalloped toe and the woven
pattern on the sole. ~~[illegible]~~ The
increase in number of ~~[illegible]~~ grinding stone
(metate), pestels (mano) ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ stone pipes, and the
finding of a few brachycephalic
people (round headed) ~~[illegible]~~
hint at. the impending invasion of
Pueblo ~~people~~, tribes.

Between the years 500 A.D.
and 900 A.D. a gradually transition
began to take place. A steady
stream ~~[illegible]~~ of new people flowed in from
the south. Many changes took
place. Whether these peoples brought
these changes with them or whether
their new blood brought new institutions
into the region we do not know.
Gradually, the basket-makers
disappeared either by intermarriage,
racial dominance, ~~and~~ or violence.
In their place appeared a short stocky
race with brachycephalic heads
often deformed (by cradle-board [illegible]
these) people [illegible]

but a few square surface houses were ~~[illegible]~~ built. A new food was introduced in the form of the kidney bean, but corn was still the staff of life. Clothing was much the same but added to it were cotton robes, Feather & fur string blankets, and dressed skin robes. Basketry was still used, but corrugated ware and pottery [illegible]. Vessels of all sizes and shapes were devised. (i.e. [illegible] of clan) A slip was added to the pottery as well as beautiful designs in black-on-white and black-on-red. Another important change took place in their weapons. The bow and arrow made its first appearance in the Southwest. Thus we pass over the transitional, Pueblo I, stage of the cliff group and now reach the early part of their history.

The Great Pueblo period may be divided into two sub-divisions, Pueblo II and Pueblo III, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] period [illegible]. During Pueblo [illegible]

of black on white pottery was developed and in the latter part a few kinds of polychrome design. [illegible] flare shaped pipes were brought in. A few pit houses having remained most were rectangular masonry uniform [illegible] or small square rooms built made large kivas. Kivas, a subterranean, masonry, circular, ceremonial room was brought in. Many new household implements a spindles ~~[illegible]~~ shaped pipes, water dippers, and stone knives appeared. Apparently much of their culture was the same as the preceding period.

Now for the [illegible] of the Pueblos. Volumes have been written upon this subject so I will only [illegible] to touch upon a small part of this [illegible] quantity of culture. First of all, most of the buildings were in huge caves, some [illegible] on the mesa tops. Purely a defensive measure made by those [illegible] in order to combat the marauding [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

nesting upon them. The people continued all the parts of the culture which above was adding more improvements to the clothing, artifacts, and in the basketry etc. Characteristic of the period are beautiful polychrome vessels done in reds, blacks, whites, oranges, and yellows. Typical of the Tsegi ware is an orange ware called Tsegi orange. This period of prosperity was finally brought to a close by a twenty-seven year drought which caused these people about the turn of the 14 th century, to vacate their communal cave homes and move to other regions. Here we leave our Pueblo friends and close this brief biography of their culture, turning now to the work which the Rainbow-Bridge Monument Valley expedition has done in the last two seasons.

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I. Introduction

Discussion of 1. Region
2. Previous work
3. Type of work

II Brief Summary of Sites (in order of [illegible])

1. 1024
2. 1029
3. 1002
4. 1005 Pit III
5. " Pit II
6. " Pit I
7. 1006 Surface House + burial
8. 1008 + " Surface House + Kiva

III Introduction to Pit House Excavation

1. Size, shape and depth
2. Construction
3. Ventilation
4. Fire pit, wood box, & [illegible]
5. Pottery
6. Artifacts

IV Conclusions

TSEGI CANYON